

Application No. 10/667,938
Amendment dated November 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 8, 2006

Remarks/Arguments

This response addresses the examiner's office action dated August 8, 2006 with respect to the above-referenced application. Original claims 1 through 4 are pending in the case, but are now canceled without prejudice. New claims 5 through 8 are now submitted with the following response to examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In the Applicants' response to the examiner's first office action, the Applicants maintained the originally presented claims and argued that the claims as filed were patentably distinct from the prior art. The examiner was not persuaded and made the second office action *final*. After filing a Request for Continued Examination and a response with amended claims, the examiner issued an office action on August 8, 2006 to which Applicant's currently respond.

In the office action dated August 8, 2006, the examiner rejected claims 1 – 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The examiner rejected claim 1 and asserted that it is not clear as to the number, location, and shape of the straps and apexes on the front panel. The examiner further asserted that the connector is a triangle and should be claimed as such. Applicants have canceled claim 1 without prejudice and submit

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claim 5, which describes the location of each apex and number of straps with specificity and describes the connector as a triangle connector.

With respect to claim 2, the examiner rejected claim 2 and asserted that the location of the first strap is unclear and cannot be distinguished from the second strap. The examiner further asserted that the hip portions of the straps were unclaimed and the connection point is unclear. The examiner again asserted that the connector should be claimed as a triangle connector. Applicants have canceled claim 2 without prejudice and submit claim 6, which describes the orientation of the first and second straps and the connector with specificity, as well as the connection between the two straps on the connector.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, the examiner rejected claim 3 for failing to have proper antecedent basis for the “wider portion” of the panel and rejected claims 3 and 4 for incorrectly using the term “wedged shape.” The examiner further asserted that the orientation of the support straps was unclear and that the connector should be claimed as a triangle connector. Applicants have canceled claims 3 and 4, and have submitted claims 7 and 8 using the correct term “wedge-shaped,” describing the connector as triangular, and describing the location and orientation of the support straps with specificity.

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It is respectfully suggested that with this amendment, the concerns the examiner noted with respect to the original claims have been eliminated and allowable subject matter is now being presented.

Conclusions

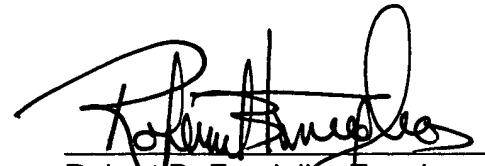
With the above, the Applicants respectfully suggest that they have presented an amendment which addresses the examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In view of the modifications offered and the amended claims now in the case, the Applicants request the examiner approve the issuance of a notice of allowance in due course.

The Applicants believe that they have addressed all of the rejections, objections and other requirements of the examiner in the pending office action in good faith. However, in the event that the examiner may identify patentable subject matter but still requires additional prosecution in view of the presentation of this response, the examiner is most cordially invited to call the undersigned counsel at the examiner's convenience to discuss desirable additional amendments or changes to the extent necessary to place the case in condition for allowance. The Applicants thank the examiner for the time she has spent reviewing the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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